

**CANNING RIVER REGIONAL PARK**

For years now the Wilson Residents and Ratepayers Association (the association) have been engaged with many stakeholders concerning the land tenure at Castledare Estate. Some ten years later, still thirteen hectares remain in the hands of the Trustees of the Christian Brothers and the association's goal is to have this land which includes a large conservation wetland acquired by the Western Australian Planning Commission in the near future.

Of the thirteen hectares at Castledare, that are still privately owned, approximately eleven hectares are identified as high conservation wetlands and river flood plain with many damp lands that support life observed along the way.

Another outstanding asset is the well established and long standing Castledare Miniature Railway which is seen as a local treasure and is firmly entrenched within the Canning River Regional Park's (CRRP) boundaries.

In the near future the association hope to see the final steps towards completing the dual use path network on public lands progress and include the proposed tracks and trails identified within the Canning River Regional Park Management Plan 1997-2007 (the plan), this is in the area to the West of Castledare Estate, from Bow St following along Bywater Way and on towards Canning River Gardens. For one reason alone it will allow the elderly to be comfortable walking off the road and on stable ground as the many users of our well established dual use paths currently enjoy along the eastern end of Fern Rd. Locals will be able to take a leisurely stroll along our beautiful river foreshore reserve, enjoying the song of a bird or a view to the wetlands that breathes life into the Canning River.

The plan is a working document, and identifies these areas within the park that will support both conservation and public open space needs. Area 6 towards Canning River Gardens allows for "Development of facilities restricted to minor nature trails, signs, cycle tracks through access where necessary." Area 7 along Bywater Way west of Bow St., is considered "predominantly passive recreation pursuits," and is recognised in the plan as a future high use area.

The association aims to pursue further discussions with the City of Canning, the Department of Environment and Conservation and all other stakeholders to see these natural assets and the surrounding properties benefit through the implementation of the Plan's proposed tracks, trails and dual use paths. This process will be ongoing and will involve extensive consultation.

At our AGM of 4 July 2010, the Mayor undertook to ensure that the Canning City became more proactive to encourage the State Government and DOLA to set in place a process, and hopefully a definitive time frame for the transfer of tenure over the Castledare Wetlands to the State. It is only then that our association in conjunction with Wilson Wetlands Action Group, Castledare Miniature Railways and members of the Parish Church can actively work towards improving the natural assets located in the CRRP that we all share and seek to work within the plans, guidelines and its strategies to further improve the CRRP in the City of Canning and of course our suburb of Wilson.

**BRIDGE STREET PARKLANDS UPGRADE**

About a year ago, **WRA** expressed support for the City's proposal to close off the western end of Bridge Street with the view to consolidating the parkland area adjacent to the Riverton Bridge Kiosk, as well as improving the local parking facilities. The proposal included provision for disabled parking bays, additional bike racks, more rubbish bins, improved drainage and additional landscaping.

At a recent **WRA** Committee Meeting, Mayor Delle Donne reported that agreement had been reached with the Swan River Trust over the drainage and car park design and he was confident the planned work would be completed this financial year, as project funding has already been approved.